

**REGION H WATER PLANNING GROUP  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 8, 2020**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gary Ashmore, David Bailey, John Bartos, Robert Bruner, Brad Brunett, James Comin, Mark Evans, Art Henson, Jace Houston, Robert Istre, Ivan Langford, Glenn Lord, Marvin Marcell, and Pudge Willcox.

**DESIGNATED ALTERNATES:** Alisa Max for John Blount, Veronica Osegueda for Yvonne Forrest, Ken Kramer for Carl Masterson, Zach Holland for James Morrison, Jun Chang for Jimmie Schindewolf, Christina Petersen for Mike Turco, and Jim Sims for Kevin Ward.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** W.R. Baker, Carl Burch, Bob Hebert, William Teer.

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lann Bookout, Kristen Lambrecht, and Rusty Ray.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019 MEETING**

Mr. Houston made a motion to approve the minutes of November 6, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chang and carried unanimously.

**4. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS 5 THROUGH 10**

Mr. Rob VanTil of Houston Stronger explained that the group is a coalition of civic groups, business associations, and active citizens from throughout the Texas Gulf Coast region dedicated to working with local, state, and federal officials to implement a comprehensive regional flood control plan that safeguards citizens and property with a goal to invest the resources required to help the entire region meet or exceed the 100-year flood plain standard. He stated that the organization is submitting comments/concerns regarding SB8 and relayed same to the group.

**5. DISCUSS STATE FLOOD PLANNING PROCESS AND CONSIDER TAKING ACTION TO DIRECT THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO SUBMIT INPUT ON DRAFT RULES FOR STATE FLOOD PLANNING AND FUNDING ON BEHALF OF THE RHWPG**

Mr. Taucer explained that the comment period for input on the draft rules for the flood financial assistance rules and Flood Intended Use Plan ends January 13, 2020, while comments related to the Regional and state flood planning rules and flood planning regions are due by February 3, 2020. It was expressed that formulating comments within the specified timeframe, as well as incorporating comments from all interest groups representing the Region H Water Planning Group (RHWPG) would be challenging, therefore it was determined that comments would not be submitted at this time.

**6. RECEIVE UPDATE FROM CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE SCHEDULE AND MILESTONES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021 REGION H RWP**

Mr. Taucer provided information related to the schedule and milestones for the development of the 2021 Region H Regional Water Plan by reviewing upcoming deadlines. He explained that the deadline for the Initial Prepared Regional Water Plan is in March to be followed by a series of public hearings related to same. It was discussed that several public hearings would be conducted at various locations such as Montgomery, Harris, and Walker Counties.

**7. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING TWDB ANALYSIS OF SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS OF UNMET WATER NEEDS IN THE REGION H WATER PLANNING AREA**

Mr. Taucer explained that evaluating the social and economic impacts of not meeting identified water needs is a required analysis in the regional water planning process. He stated that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provided the study for the Region H Water Planning Group. Mr. Taucer provided a summary of the findings of the analysis. In short, the executive summary provided that based on projected water demands and existing water supplies, Region H identified water needs (potential shortages) that could occur within its regions under a repeat of the drought of record for six water use categories (irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, municipal, and steam-electric power). The analysis explained that TWDB then estimated the annual socioeconomic impacts of those needs – if they are not met – for each water use category and as an aggregate for the region. It went on explain the software utilized and other economic analysis techniques used. The analysis concluded that it is estimated that not meeting the identified water needs in Region H would result in an annually combined lost income impact of approximately \$4.6 billion in 2020, increasing to \$13.8 billion in 2070. Further, in 2020, the region would lose approximately 29,000 jobs, and in 2070 job losses would increase to approximately 149,000 if anticipated needs are not mitigated. Further, all impact estimates are in year 2018 dollars and were calculated using a variety of data sources and tools including the use of a region-specific IMPLAN model, data from TWDB annual water use estimates, the U.S. Census Bureau, Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, and the Texas Municipal League.

**8. RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANT TEAM REGARDING THE DRAFT 2021 REGION H INITIALLY PREPARED REGIONAL WATER PLAN**

Mr. Taucer provided a brief summary of each of the chapters of the draft Initially Prepared Plan (IPP). He stated that the Conservation Approach, MAG Peak Factors, Drought Management Analysis, and HB 807 Requirements were some key differences between previous IPP submissions and this one. Mr. Taucer stated that any comments submitted would be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

**9. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING RECENT AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE RHWPG**

There were no upcoming activities to report.

**10. AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mr. Bookout provided an update related to various TWDB program due dates. Mr. Rusty Ray provided information on behalf of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

**11. RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**12. NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 5, 2020**

Mr. Evans announced that the next Region H Water Planning Group meeting would be February 5, 2020.

**13. ADJOURN**

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.